A public education program of The Florida Bar

Judicial Officers and Educators Teaching the Public

Developed by The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.
www.flrea.org
Learning Objectives

1. Identify roles that judicial officers and educators can play in educating the public;

2. Build skills for public legal education;

3. Motivate participants to implement civic and law-related education programs.
What are you doing?

• What are you doing to educate the public about the courts and the judiciary?

• In or out of the courthouse, how do you engage with or educate the public (of all ages)?
Education programs and models

Schools/Students

The public
"This is our responsibility: we have a duty to teach the children a sense of justice and compassion."

Florida Justice Teaching Institute for Teachers
Justice Teaching Partnerships

Elementary School Lessons:

- **Invaders Activity** Plus Case Summaries and PowerPoint Presentations
  - Version 1 (shorter) - Can be completed in one class period. Version 2 (longer) - Requires at least 90 minutes. The Invaders Activity is designed to introduce students to the rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

- **The First Amendment** - This activity creates an awareness of the five rights contained in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

- **The Candy Game** - This activity will help students for rules, the rulemaking process and the role of the judge.

- **Planet Lawless** - An activity to teach students the laws in a civilization.

- **No Animals Allowed On School Grounds** - This activity allows students to discuss how it is interpreted.

- **The Truth About Bullying** Plus PowerPoint - This teaches students about the characteristics of bullying. Tools for addressing bullying conduct in schools are also presented.

- **NEW Yertle the Turtle** - This activity teaches students about the laws and rights, while engaging them about the importance of the rule of law.

Justice By The People (Grades 5 - 8) - from Scholastic. Note: This interactive lesson plan satisfies the following Sunshine State Standards for Grade 5, Civics and Government: Standard 3 SS.5.C.3.3, SS.5.C.3.5

- **Make Your Case Game Overview**
- **Overview of the Unit Plan**
- **Play the "Make Your Case" Game**

Middle and High School Lessons:

- **Invaders Activity** Plus Case Summaries and PowerPoint Presentations
  - Version 1 (shorter) - Can be completed in one class period. Version 2 (longer) - Requires at least 90 minutes. The Invaders Activity is designed to introduce students to the rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

- **Short Takes - Icebreakers** - These are short 20-minute activities that include team activities or introductory exercises.

- **Handout** describing various types of government:
  - Students the opportunity to develop their own form of government, how it will operate as well as the rights they will have.

- **Constitutional Scavenger Hunt** - This activity will help students familiarize with the Florida Constitution and state government systems for the state courts system.

- **Scavenger Hunt** - This activity will help participants answer key for the U.S. Constitution.

- **Constitutional Scavenger Hunt** is provided!

- **Quiz Show: The Florida Courts and the Constitution Scavenger Hunt** - This game show format provides a stimulating environment that will familiarize participants with the Florida Constitution, the judicial branch, supreme court justices, judicial duties, the courts and more.

- **You and the Law** (pdf) Plus Quiz Show: You and the Law (Powerpoint) - This activity is designed to be used with the Legal Guide for New Adults brochure distributed by the Florida Bar. The QUIZ SHOW GAME format provides a stimulating environment for introducing legal content and encouraging further research on law-related topics.
Student simulations

Florida High School and Middle School Mock Trial

Florida High School Moot Court
Educating Adults
Constitution and the Bill of Rights

Courts and the Judicial Branch

Special Topics
Series of activities developed for adult, nonpartisan group presentations.

- Designed for use by attorneys and judges.
- Activities range from 30 to 50 minutes.
- Presentation materials:
  - Most activities include a PowerPoint and engaging activities to draw audience members into the presentation.
- Presenters can receive CLE Credit (Ethics) for presentations made (up to three credits per reporting period)
Benchmarks: Raising the Bar on Civics Education

Benchmarks is a series of civic education activities that attorneys can present when they speak to civic and community groups. Many Americans lack basic knowledge about their government and the courts; Benchmarks offers a way to bridge the gap and educate and engage audiences about civics education. Activities cover:

- Amending the Florida Constitution and the role of the courts.
- Judging candidates for judicial office.
- Understanding what makes a law "constitutional."
- Getting beyond labels in discussing courts and controversial cases.
- Interpreting what laws mean.
- Testing your knowledge of what's in the U.S. and Florida constitutions.

Each activity comes with an overview, handouts and is guided by a PowerPoint. All materials can be downloaded from The Florida Bar website.

Attorneys can receive CLE credit for making Benchmarks presentations. Benchmarks presenters can earn one ethics credit hour for each presentation for up to three presentations in a three-year reporting period. Form to apply for credit 📂.
What if your life was in the hands of six ordinary people?

If you walked into the courtroom accused of a crime what qualities or characteristics do you want in those six people?
The Scarlet Tag

Florida

DUI 123

Sunshine State
A public education program of The Florida Bar

Developed by The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.
www.flrea.org
A public education program

of The Florida Bar

http://ivp.nawj.org/
FAIR COURTS = JUSTICE
How are judges different from other elected officials?

Legislators make decisions based on the needs/desires of their constituents or voters, their own beliefs, or their political party’s agenda.

Judges must follow the law and should not be influenced by politics, special interest groups, money, public opinion or their own personal beliefs. The judicial branch is not a political or representative branch.
There are five novels in the *Justice Case Files* series and a sixth one in the works!

www.ncsc.org/justicecasefiles
The Case of the Cyberbully is a lesson in due process, justice – and the Magna Carta!

Justice Case Files 5: The Case of the Cyberbully

www.ncsc.org/justicecasefiles
Later that evening...

So how was the day, GF? You never texted back.

Awful! I got caught texting in class.

Now I'm grounded. Mom took my phone for 2 weeks.

And gym class was tough. As usual, Madison and the other jocks are still on my case.

Maybe Madison has a point. When will she learn?

What do you mean?

Three Innocent Pop Stars

The Next Day

Well, if it isn't my girlfr—

Hey!!

Shut up!

Back off, Ames.

Back off and walk away.

I said back off!

Stop!

Madison, report immediately to Ms. Canterby's office.

Right now, I don't care who started what.

Ander... you came with me...

Do you have any idea what you've done?

Do you?

So to congratulate for pizza after practice. Sound good?

Yes, Madison.

I think someone is here to see you.

Ha-ha! Hilarious!

I hope you don't mind, but I've posted all of our lovey-dovey chats on my blog. Makes for hilarious reading!

No...

Not you...

Barbara L. has activated her webcam.

Face Front is now live.

Blushing.

Goo do you still want to go to the prom with me?
Students Stand Against Bullying
A Collection of Student Essays
Lesson plans are judges’ and judicial educators’ best friend.

NCSC provides complimentary, downloadable lesson plans for Justice Case Files 1-3 and 5.

www.ncsc.org/justicecasefiles
THE NEXT DAY

DR. LANSTON’S COMICS CLASS

DUE PROCESS.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? CAN ANYONE TELL ME?

CORRECT! DUE PROCESS IS ABOUT HAVING FAIR RULES THAT APPLY TO EVERYONE.

AND AMBER, YOU KNOW SCHOOL POLICY FORBIDS CELL PHONE USE DURING CLASS. HAND IT OVER, PLEASE.

UH, FAIR PLAY?

EQUAL RIGHTS?

YES, FAIR PLAY AND EQUAL RIGHTS ARE BOTH PART OF DUE PROCESS.

SORRY, DR. LANSTON, I’LL PUT IT AWAY.

NO, YOU’LL GIVE IT TO ME.

JAMES, GIVE ME YOUR PHONE AS WELL.

MY PHONE? I WASN’T EVEN USING IT.

THAT’S RIGHT. YOU CAN’T JUST TAKE THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY.

WHY NOT?

AS A STUDENT, MS. FAULKNER IS AUTHORIZED SHE CAN’T USE CELL PHONES EXCEPT DURING BREAK AND LUNCH.

SHE BROKE THE “LAWS” IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK, SO I CAN LEGALLY SEIZE HER PHONE.

WELL, YOU CAN’T TAKE MINE! I DIDN’T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT. THERE ARE LAWS IN TODAY’S SOCIETY. THANKS TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS SHAPED BY THE MAGNA CARTA, AMERICANS HAVE MANY RIGHTS. PROPERTY CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS.

BUT DURING THE ERA OF KING JOHN, BEFORE THE MAGNA CARTA AND DUE PROCESS, THESE LAWS DIDN’T EXIST. A RULER COULD DO AS HE OR SHE PLEASED.

SO, I’LL TELL YOU WHAT, JAMES. I’LL KEEP THE PHONE AND PUT YOU IN DETENTION FOR A WEEK. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
Civics Education Resource Guide

This resource guide information was gathered by researching state court web sites and other justice system-related organizations’ web sites.

If you have a civics education program that is not listed and should be, please contact Deirdre Roesch at droesch@ncsc.org or Lorri Montgomery at lmontgomery@ncsc.org.

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Mission and Goals:
The Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education (ACLCE) is dedicated to educating young citizens in civic knowledge,
Judicial Opportunities

- Street Law
- Judges in the Classroom
- Youth Courts
- YMCA Mock Trial Competition
- We the People… the Citizen and the Constitution
- iCivics
Since 1996, the Judges in the Classroom program has made judges available to educate and empower students in K-12 classrooms. The Judges in the Classroom program, coordinated by the Administrative Office of the Courts, allows K-12 teachers to request that a judge visit their classrooms. Judges present age-appropriate lessons featuring Washington state laws and constitution.
Judges in the Classroom

- Free online lessons K-12
- Can be used by a variety of presenters.
Teach one day per week – approximately 16 contact hours with students

Work out syllabus

Attend training

Serve as law resource

Arrange court visits

In-class mock trial
YMCA Mock Trial
We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution is a text focusing on the meaning and value of the United States Constitution. Students engaging in the We the People curriculum participate in a simulated congressional hearing in which they present information on a given unit from the text, establish viewpoints, and formulate supported opinions, and defend their positions to a panel of judges.
iCivics is a web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy. iCivics is the vision of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation, and that civic education teachers need better materials and support. Annette Boyd Pitts and Margaret Fisher serve as state directors for iCivics in Florida and Washington.
Demonstrations

• Opinion Poll

• Video – Myths and Misperceptions

• Posters
1. Midori, a 15-year-old, cooked some macaroni with some girl friends. She accidentally poured the boiling water onto the back of one of her friends. Her friend was hospitalized for over a month, had skin grafts, and will be permanently scarred. Midori’s parents are liable for these injuries.

2. Bruce, who is 14 years old, is caught painting graffiti on a downtown store. His parents should have to pay a fine of up to $2,500.

3. Bruce’s parents should also have to pay the owners of the downtown store the $3,000 it will take to clean and repaint the store.
Questions, Myths and Misperceptions

- Judges can do whatever they want in the courtroom.

- Judges have too much power. They decide who gets arrested, what the person is charged with, and they set the punishment for the crimes that are committed.

- Who do the courts work for? The police, the legislature, or the Governor?

- Who are judges responsible to? How are they held accountable?

- I hear that judges can change the law! Why can they do that?
Could You Pass the Test?

**Question 7**
What is the “rule of law”?

- Everyone must follow the law.
- Leaders must obey the law.
- Government must obey the law.
- No one is above the law.

The Contemplation of Justice statue outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.

**Question 10**
What does the judicial branch do?

- Reviews laws
- Explains laws
- Resolves disputes (disagreements)
- Decides if a law goes against the Constitution

The Courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court building, where the Court has sat since 1938.

Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Case study: is it reasonable?

Federal Courts: Scott v Harris

Case study

1. Does an officer who stops a high-speed chase by hitting the car off the road and causing serious injuries violate the driver’s Fourth Amendment rights?

2. Did the officer violate the driver’s Fourth Amendment protections by using excessive force during a high-speed chase?
State Courts Case Study

The Case Through the Courts

Jardines Case

Question Before the Court

Is a “sniff test” by a dog conducted at the front of a home considered a violation of the Fourth Amendment?

Now it is your turn to be the judge
The Role of the Courts

The Constitution outlines our rights

...and the Courts protect our rights.
Characteristics of Judges
What characteristics are most important to you?

- Knowledge of the law
- Impartial/Unbiased
- Fair
- Attentive
- Respectful/Understanding
- Honesty/Integrity
- Neutral
- Professional demeanor

What else would you add?
Trial court judges run against candidates in contested, nonpartisan elections. Voting for one judge eliminates the other candidates.

Appellate court judges are not running against an opponent. They are on the ballot to keep/retain their positions after first full year on the bench and every six years thereafter. Each Justice should receive a vote of “yes” or “no”.

Circuit and County Court Judges Sample Ballot

Appellate Judges Merit Retention Sample Ballot
Accountability

• The judicial branch is different from the other branches.

• Judicial decisions can be appealed to a higher court.

• Judges must follow a code of conduct.

• U.S. Constitution, sentencing guidelines, court rules, etc.
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Code of Judicial Conduct

For the State of Florida

Online Version

Reports of misconduct by judges must be made to the Judicial Qualifications Commission at (850) 488-1581.

Print the Entire Code of Judicial Conduct in PDF.

The opinions of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee are available on the Sixth Judicial Circuit Website. Visit the website to search the opinions.

Preamble

Definitions

Canon 1. A Judge Shall Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary

Canon 2. A Judge Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in all of the Judge's Activities

Canon 3. A Judge Shall Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently
Since October 20, 2000, this page has been available on-line to quickly distribute to news media and others any documents filed with the Florida Supreme Court in Judicial Qualifications Commission cases involving alleged misconduct by Florida state judges or involuntary retirement of a judge due to serious illness. It does not include documents filed before this date. More information on the JQC and how to file complaints against Florida state judges is available at the end of this document.

### Pending JQC Cases Against Florida State Judges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judge</th>
<th>Filings</th>
<th>Docket</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Updated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew J. Decker, III</td>
<td>14-363</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>05-13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Lee Fulford</td>
<td>15-786</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Franklin/Wakulla</td>
<td>08-27-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia G. Imperato</td>
<td>15-355</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>09-07-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Krause</td>
<td>13-2253</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>06-23-15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14-1012</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>06-23-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John C. Murphy</td>
<td>14-1582</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>07-13-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Rosenthal</td>
<td>15-1498</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>09-03-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Schwartz</td>
<td>15-312</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>09-15-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Shepard</td>
<td>15-1746</td>
<td>Docket</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>09-25-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[JQC Case Archives](#)
What you can do...

1. Interact with the public including adults and students through courthouse tours and educational presentations.

2. Evaluate the courthouse and courtroom experience for the public; includes jurors and general public.

3. Provide educational materials for jurors and the general public including students.

4. Evaluate the educational programs you have at the Court and your involvement.
Benefits of Educating the Public

1. As knowledge increases, so too does public confidence in the courts.
2. Humanizes judicial branch; increases accessibility to the public. Judges are the most trusted messengers.
3. A more educated citizenry is a more educated jury pool and electorate.
4. Clears up misconceptions and misperceptions about the judicial branch.
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